

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04281 230916Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-07 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10
ERDA-07 NRC-07 OES-07 FEA-01 /106 W
-----013995 230924Z /12

O P 230825Z AUG 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8529

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4281

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MNUC, SF

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA AGAIN DENIES NUCLEAR CHARGES

REF: PRETORIA 4246 & 4248; PARIS 24336

LAGOS FOR MOOSE AND YOUNG

1. BOTH ENGLISH AND AFRIKAANS MORNING PRESS OF AUGUST 23
CARRIED LEAD STORIES ON FRENCH RADIO REPORT THAT SOUTH
AFRICA HAS BUILT ATOMIC TEST INSTALLATIONS IN THE
KALAHARI DESERT AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUDS'S
STATEMENT THAT HE HAS " PRECISE INDICATIONS" THAT SOUTH
AFRICA IS PLANNING AN ATOMIC TEST. THE ARTICLES STATE
THAT SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS HAVE AGAIN DENIED THE
ALLEGATION. SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS BRAND FOURIE
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WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE REPORT WAS " INCOMPREHENSIBLE"
AND THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAD TOLD HIM IT HAD NO
KNOWLEDGE OF DE GUIRINGAUD'S ALLEGATION. DR. A.J.A.
ROUX, PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC ENERGY
BOARD, ALSO ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE
PRESS: QUOTE THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. R.F.
BOTHA, HAS MADE IT VERY CLEAR IN HIS STATEMENTS OVER

THE PAST FEW DAYS THAT THERE IS NO TRUTH WHATSOEVER
IN THE ALLEGATIONS THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS ABOUT TO TEST
A NUCLEAR WEAPON. AS PRESIDENT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY
BOARD, I HAVE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THAT
EMPHASIZED THAT THE COUNTRY'S ENTIRE NUCLEAR RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IS DEVOTED TO THE PEACEFUL
USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. IN SPITE OF THESE CLEAR
STATEMENTS SOUTH AFRICA IS ACCUSED OF HAVING EMBARKED
ON A NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMME. WHAT IS REVEALING,
IS THE FACT THAT NOT ONE OF THOSE MAKING THESE
ACCUSATIONS IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE SLIGHTEST
EVIDENCE OF THE BASIS OF THEIR ATTACKS. FURTHERMORE,
IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE
STILL A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET
SIGNED THE NON- PROLIFERATION TREATY, SOUTH AFRICA IS
THE ONLY ONE WHICH HAS BEEN SINGLE OUT FOR CRITICISM
IN THIS RESPECT UNQUOTE. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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